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# On-Line Nonlinear Programming as a Generalized Equation

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**Joint Work with: Victor Zavala**

# Motivation

**On-Line Optimization: MPC, MHE, RTO, Finance**

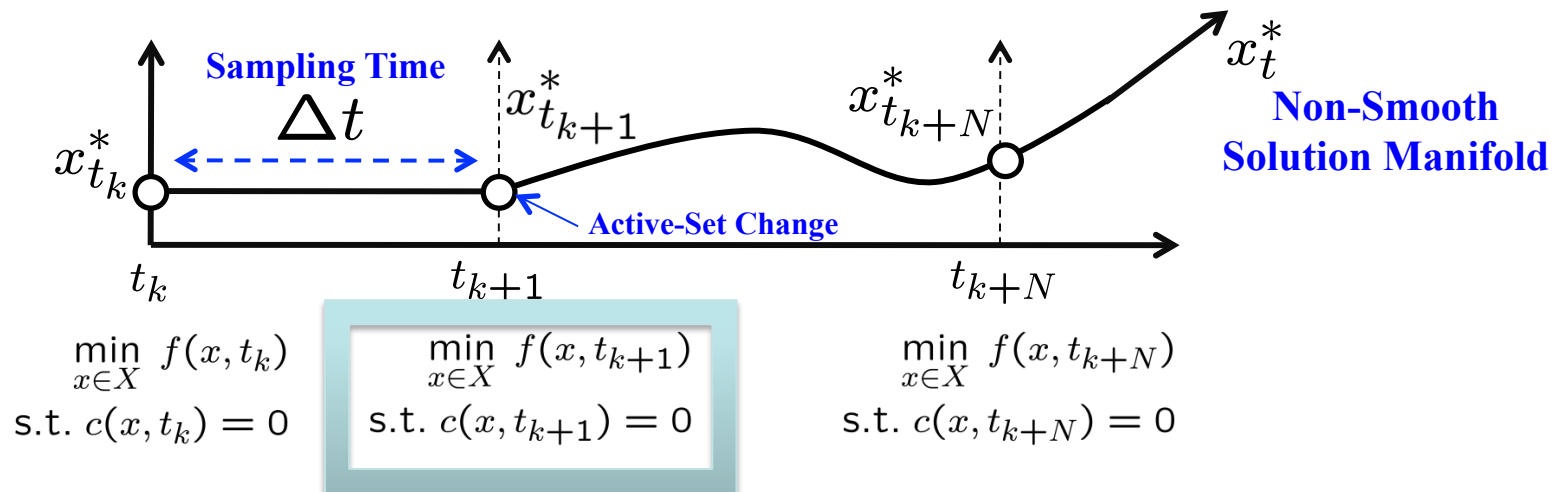
Minutes

Seconds



**Data Updated at Predefined Sampling Times**

**Decisions Obtained by Solving NLP/QP with Current Data**



**Objective:** Accommodate Large-Scale Dynamic Models in Suitable Time Scales

**Property:** Problems Close to Each Other! Can we exploit this to ensure stability?

# An abstract view of the issues

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- **Rolling horizon optimal control:**  $F(w, t) = 0 \Rightarrow w = w(t)$  the optimal control manifold.
  - We already wrote the optimality conditions to get it here
  - $F$  can be an operator that includes differential equations for dynamics, which can be discretized somehow.
  - $w$  includes state variables, control variables and Lagrange multipliers
- **The variable  $w$  cannot be computed instantly, so we must allow it a time  $\Delta t$ .**
  - The problem becomes  $F(w(t^k), t^k) = 0$ ;  $F(w(t^{k+1}), t^{k+1}) = 0$ ;  $t^{k+1} = t^k + \Delta t$
- **Better, but we cannot guarantee that we find a solution in  $\Delta t$  even now. What if we solve the subproblem inexactly, e.g only its linearization or an inexact linearization?**

$$F(w^k, t^k) + \nabla_w F(w^k, t^k)(w^{k+1} - w^k) + \nabla_t F(w^k, t^k)\Delta t + r^k = 0;$$

- **Could it work? Yes, if we can track the manifold (stability):**

$$\|w^k - w(t^k)\| \leq O((\Delta t)^p)$$

- **Can we track the manifold with as little computation per time step as possible, particularly when inequality constraints are included (limited ramps, limited resources, sufficient supply) ? --- This becomes our central investigation issue.**
- **Can we do this in the limit of rapidly increasing information?  $\Delta t \rightarrow 0$**

# Outline of the Talk

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## 1. Nonlinear Programming

## 2. Generalized Equations

- Single QP per Sampling Time
- Stability of NLP Error as  $\Delta t \rightarrow 0$

## 3. Augmented Lagrangean Strategy

- Cheap Strategies for QP Solution – Projected Gauss Seidel

## 4. Numerical Case Study

## 5. Conclusions and Future Work

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## **1. Nonlinear Programming**

# Nonlinear Programming

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \min_x f(x, t) \\
 \text{s.t. } c(x, t) = 0 \\
 x \geq 0
 \end{array}
 \begin{array}{l}
 \nearrow \text{Active-Set SQP} \\
 \searrow \text{Interior Point}
 \end{array}
 \begin{array}{l}
 \nabla_x f(x, t) + \nabla_x c(x, t) \lambda - \nu = 0 \\
 c(x, t) = 0 \\
 x^{(i)} = 0, \forall i \in \mathcal{A} \\
 \nu^{(i)} = 0, \forall i \notin \mathcal{A}
 \end{array}
 \begin{array}{l}
 \text{QP Solver} \\
 \min \nabla_x f(x^k, t)^T \Delta x + \frac{1}{2} \Delta x^T \mathbf{H} \Delta x \\
 \text{s.t. } c(x^k, t) + \mathbf{A}^T \Delta x = 0 \\
 \Delta x \geq -x^k
 \end{array}$$
  

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \nabla_x f(x, t) + \nabla_x c(x, t) \lambda - \nu = 0 \\
 c(x, t) = 0 \\
 X \cdot V = \mu e
 \end{array}
 \begin{array}{l}
 \text{KKT System} \\
 \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{H} & \mathbf{A} & -I \\ \mathbf{A}^T & & \\ \mathbf{V} & & \mathbf{X} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Delta x \\ \Delta \lambda \\ \Delta \nu \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{r}_x(w^k, t) \\ \mathbf{r}_\lambda(w^k, t) \\ \mathbf{X}^k \cdot \mathbf{V}^k - \mu e \end{bmatrix}
 \end{array}$$

## Newton Step Computation

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|cc} \mathbf{H} & \mathbf{A} & -I & & \\ \mathbf{A}^T & & & \mathbf{E}_x & \mathbf{E}_\nu \\ \mathbf{V} & & \mathbf{X} & & \\ \hline \mathbf{E}_x^T & & & & \\ & \mathbf{E}_\nu^T & & & \end{array} \right] \begin{bmatrix} \Delta x \\ \Delta \lambda \\ \Delta \nu \\ \Delta \sigma_x \\ \Delta \sigma_\nu \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{r}_x(w^k, t) \\ \mathbf{r}_\lambda(w^k, t) \\ \mathbf{r}_c(w^k, t) \\ \mathbf{r}_{\sigma_x}(w^k, t) \\ \mathbf{r}_{\sigma_\nu}(w^k, t) \end{bmatrix}$$

**Interior-Point:** - Fixed Matrix Structure - No Symbolic Factorization Needed

**Active-Set:** - Changing Matrix Structure

- Each Internal QP Iteration is as Expensive as Outer IP Iteration

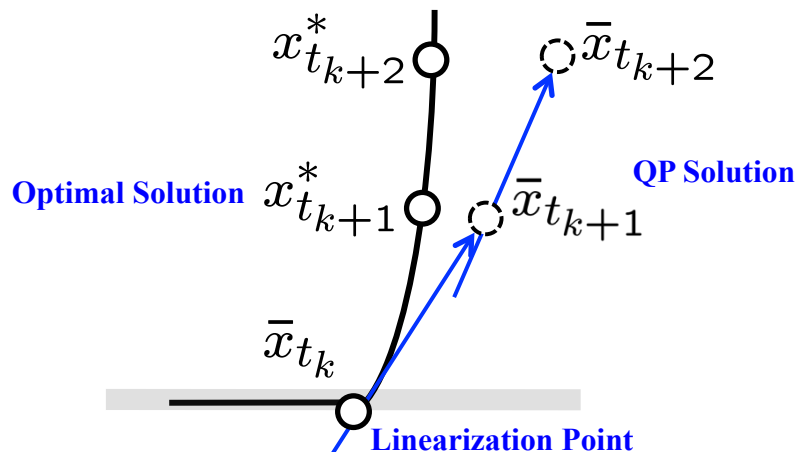
Newton Steps Accurate but Overhead is High. Limits attainable  $\Delta t$  !

# Nonlinear Programming

**A “Fast” NLP Solver is NOT Enough ...**

## Approximate NLP Strategies

- One Quadratic Program (QP) Per Sampling Time *de Oliveira & Biegler, 1995, Diehl, et.al., 2001, Ohtsuka, 2004*
- Accurate But Slow vs. Approximate But Fast?
- The Dynamic System Escapes if we Insist in Accurate Solution ...



$$\begin{aligned}
 \min \quad & \nabla_x f(\bar{x}_{t_k}, t_{k+1})^T \Delta x + \frac{1}{2} \Delta x^T \nabla_{xx} \mathcal{L}(\bar{x}_{t_k}, \bar{\lambda}_{t_k}, t_k) \Delta x \\
 \text{s.t.} \quad & c(\bar{x}_{t_k}, t_{k+1}) + \nabla_x c(\bar{x}_{t_k}, t_k)^T \Delta x = 0 \\
 & \Delta x \geq -\bar{x}_{t_k}
 \end{aligned}$$

**Time-Dependent QP**

## Issues:

- Stability of NLP Error, Changing Active Sets
- Solving the QP as Quickly as Possible (If  $\Delta t \rightarrow 0$  Cheap Steps are Enough!)

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## 1. Generalized Equations



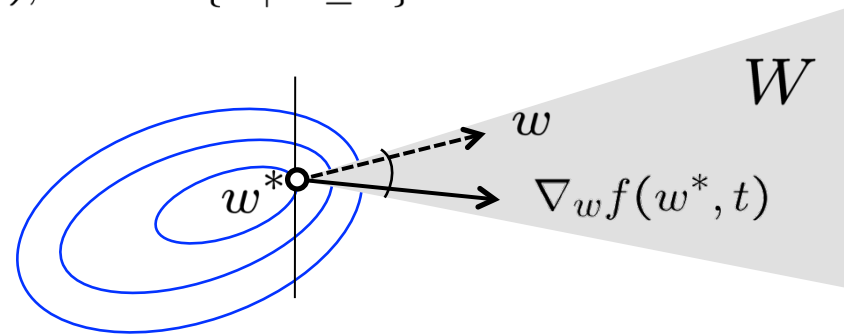
# Generalized Equations

## Generalized Equations (GE) *Robinson, 1977, 1980*

$-F(w, t) \in \mathcal{N}_W(w) \leftarrow$  **Normal Cone Operator (compare with NLE)**

**First-Order KKT Conditions of**  $\min_{w \in W} f(w, t), \quad W = \{w \mid w \geq 0\}$

$$-\nabla_w f(w^*, t)^T (w^* - w) \geq 0, \quad \forall w \in W$$



## Canonical Linearized Generalized Equation (LGE)

$$\delta \in F(w_{t_0}^*, t_0) + \nabla_w F(w_{t_0}^*, t_0)(w - w_{t_0}^*) + \mathcal{N}_W(w) \quad w(\delta) = \psi^{-1}[\delta] \leftarrow \text{Solution Operator}$$

**Definition** (*Robinson, 1977*): **LGE is Strongly Regular at  $w_{t_0}^*$  if**  $\exists L_\psi \geq 0$  s.t.  $\|w(\delta) - w_{t_0}^*\| \leq L_\psi \|\delta\|$

**Theorem:**  $\psi^{-1}$  **is Lipschitzian if:**

$$M = \nabla_w F(w_{t_0}^*, t_0) = \begin{bmatrix} M_{11} & M_{12} & M_{13} \\ M_{21} & M_{22} & M_{23} \\ M_{31} & M_{32} & M_{33} \end{bmatrix} \quad \hat{M} = \begin{bmatrix} M_{11} & M_{12} \\ M_{21} & M_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$

Active      Degenerate      Inactive

1.  $M_{11}$  **Non-Singular**

2.  $M_{22} - M_{21}M_{11}^{-1}M_{12}$  **Is Positive Definite**

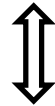
# Generalized Equations

**Context of NLP**  $\min_{x \in X} f(x, t), \text{ s.t. } c(x, t) = 0$

**Solution of Perturbed LGE**  $\bar{w}_t = [\bar{x}_t \ \bar{\lambda}_t]$  **Around**  $w_{t_0}^*$

$$0 \in F(w_{t_0}^*, t) + \nabla_w F(w_{t_0}^*, t_0)(w - w_{t_0}^*) + \mathcal{N}_W(w)$$

Canonical Form



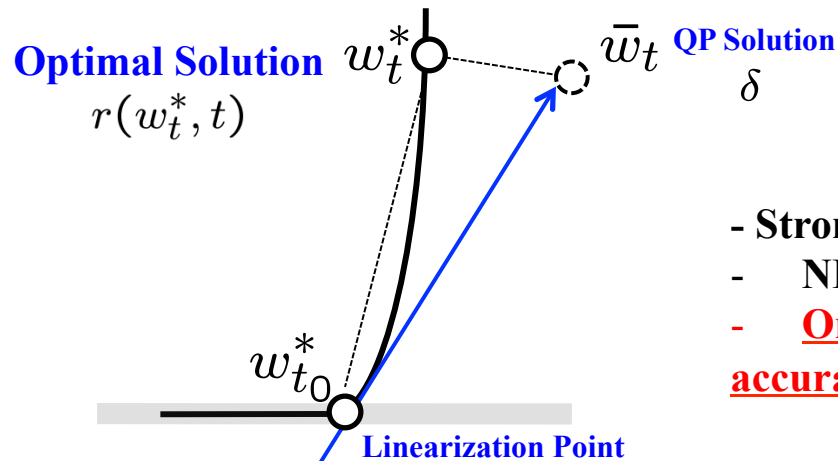
$$\delta \in F(w_{t_0}^*, t_0) + \nabla_w F(w_{t_0}^*, t_0)(w - w_{t_0}^*) + \mathcal{N}_W(w) \quad \text{With} \quad \delta = F(w_{t_0}^*, t_0) - F(w_{t_0}^*, t)$$

**KKT Conditions of Perturbed QP**

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \nabla_x f(x_{t_0}^*, t)^T \Delta x + \frac{1}{2} \Delta x^T \nabla_{xx} \mathcal{L}(w_{t_0}^*, t_0) \Delta x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & c(x_{t_0}^*, t) + \nabla_x c(x_{t_0}^*, t_0)^T \Delta x = 0 \\ & \Delta x \geq -x_{t_0}^* \end{aligned}$$

**From Lipschitz Continuity and Mean Value Theorem**

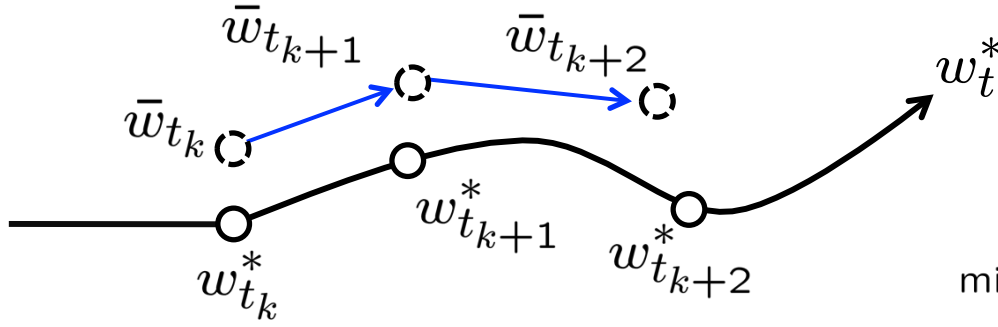
$$\begin{aligned} \|w_t^* - \bar{w}_t\| &\leq L_\psi \|r(w_t^*, t) - \delta\| \\ &\leq L_\psi \| (F(w_{t_0}^*, t_0) + F_w(w_{t_0}^*, t_0)(w_t^* - w_{t_0}^*) - F(w_t^*, t)) - (F(w_{t_0}^*, t_0) - F(w_{t_0}^*, t)) \| \\ &\leq L_\psi \|F_w(w_{t_0}^*, t_0)(w_t^* - w_{t_0}^*) - F(w_t^*, t) + F(w_{t_0}^*, t)\| \\ &\leq L \Delta t^2 \end{aligned}$$



- Strong Regularity Requires SSOC and LICQ
- NLP Error is Bounded by LGE Perturbation
- One QP solution from exact manifold is second-order accurate

# Generalized Equations

But I am never EXACTLY on the manifold: Stability of uncentered NLP Error



**Time-Dependent QP**

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \nabla_x f(\bar{x}_{t_k}, t_{k+1})^T \Delta x + \frac{1}{2} \Delta x^T \nabla_{xx} \mathcal{L}(\bar{w}_{t_k}, t_k) \Delta x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & c(\bar{x}_{t_k}, t_{k+1}) + \nabla_x c(\bar{x}_{t_k}, t_k)^T \Delta x = 0 \\ & \Delta x \geq -\bar{x}_{t_k} \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem**

- **A1: LGE is Strongly Regular at  $w_{t_k}^*$**
- **A2:  $\bar{w}_{t_k}$  Exists in Neighborhood and  $\exists \delta_r \geq 0$  s.t.  $\|\bar{w}_{t_k} - w_{t_k}^*\| \leq L_\psi \|r(\bar{w}_{t_k}, t_k)\| \leq L_\psi \delta_r$**

**For sufficiently small  $\Delta t$ ,**

$$\|\bar{w}_{t_k} - w_{t_k}^*\| \leq L_\psi \delta_r \Rightarrow \|\bar{w}_{t_{k+1}} - w_{t_{k+1}}^*\| \leq L_\psi \delta_r$$

**Analysis Straightforward Using Residual Bounds**

**Stability Holds Even if QP Solved to  $O(\Delta t^2)$  Accuracy**

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**2. Augmented Lagrangean Strategy: what if I am limited in memory and sometimes forced to terminate early even the QP resolution?**

# Augmented Lagrangean

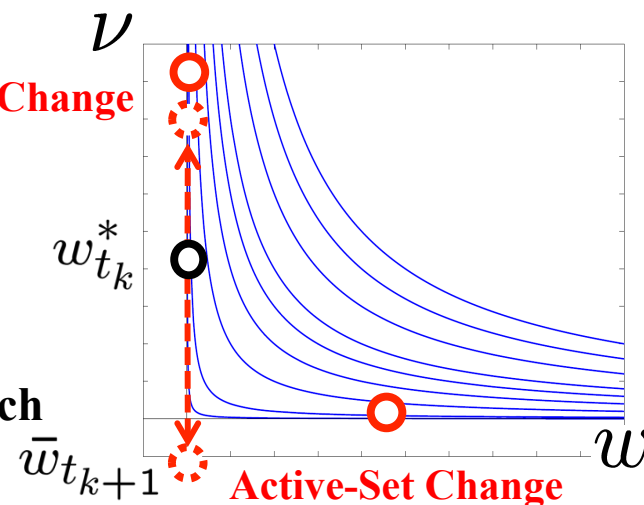
## Iterative Linear Algebra to Solve QP

- Direct Linear Solvers Cannot be Terminated Early (Wasted Overhead)
- Complicated by Changing Active-Sets

## Alternative: Barrier & Apply Iterative Solver to Indefinite KKT System (Smoothing)

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_x f(x, t) \\ \text{s.t. } c(x, t) = 0 \\ x \geq 0 \end{array} \longleftrightarrow \begin{array}{ll} \min \phi(x, t) := f(x, t) - \mu \sum_{i=1}^{nx} \ln(x^{(i)}) \\ \text{s.t. } c(x, t) = 0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \nabla_{xx}\mathcal{L}(\bar{w}_{t_k}, t_k) + \sum_{t_k} \nabla_x c(\bar{x}_{t_k}, t_k) \\ \nabla_x c(\bar{x}_{t_k}, t_k)^T \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Delta x \\ \Delta \lambda \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} \nabla_x \phi(\bar{x}_{t_k}, t_{k+1}) + \nabla_x c(\bar{x}_{t_k}, t_{k+1}) \bar{\lambda}_{t_k} \\ c(\bar{x}_{t_k}, t_{k+1}) \end{bmatrix}$$



- Truncated Newton with PCG, QMR
- Barrier Linearization Leads to Large Errors
- Fast Indefinite Preconditioner Needed
- Plus, barrier introduces a large parameter which may severely affect stability

# Augmented Lagrangean

**Proposal:** Augmented Lagrangean Penalty and Apply Projected Gauss-Seidel to QP

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_x & f(x, t) \\ \text{s.t.} & c(x, t) = 0 \\ & x \geq 0 \end{array} \longleftrightarrow \begin{array}{ll} \min & \mathcal{L}_A(x, \lambda, t) := f(x, t) + \lambda^T c(x, t) + \frac{\rho}{2} \|c(x, t)\|^2 \\ \text{s.t.} & x \geq 0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & \nabla_x \mathcal{L}_A(\bar{x}_{t_k}, \bar{\lambda}_{t_k}, t_{k+1})^T \Delta x + \frac{1}{2} \Delta x^T \nabla_{xx} \mathcal{L}_A(\bar{x}_{t_k}, \bar{\lambda}_{t_k}, t_k) \Delta x \\ \text{s.t.} & \Delta x \geq -\bar{x}_{t_k} \end{array}$$

Close to Manifold Hessian of Augmented Lagrangean Remains at Least Positive Semi-Definite

**Projected Gauss Seidel**

$$\min_{w \geq \alpha} \quad \frac{1}{2} w^T M w + b^T w$$

**For**  $k = 0, 1, \dots, n_{iter}$

$$w_i^{k+1} = -\frac{1}{M_{ii}} \left( b_i - \sum_{j < i} M_{ij} w_j^{k+1} - \sum_{j > i} M_{ij} w_j^k \right)$$

$$w_i^{k+1} = \max(w_i^{k+1}, \alpha_i), \quad i = 1, \dots, n$$

- **Detects Multiple Active-Set Efficiently** *Morales et.al. 2008, Tasora et.al. 2009*
- **High Accuracy Requires Large Number of Iterations**  $\Rightarrow$  Not if  $\Delta t$  Small! Ideal for us!

# Augmented Lagrangean

## Algorithm:

Given  $\bar{x}_{t_0}, \bar{\lambda}_{t_0}, \Delta t, \rho$ , and  $n_{PGS}$ ,

1. Evaluate  $\nabla_x \mathcal{L}_A(\bar{x}_{t_k}, \bar{\lambda}_{t_k}, t_{k+1}, \rho)$  and  $\nabla_{xx} \mathcal{L}_A(\bar{x}_{t_k}, \bar{\lambda}_{t_k}, t_k, \rho)$ .
2. Compute  $\Delta \bar{x}_{t_{k+1}}$  applying  $n_{PGS}$  iterations to QP
3. Update  $\bar{x}_{t_{k+1}} \leftarrow \bar{x}_{t_k} + \Delta \bar{x}_{t_{k+1}}$  and  $\bar{\lambda}_{t_{k+1}} \leftarrow \bar{\lambda}_{t_k} + \underbrace{\rho c(\bar{x}_{t_{k+1}}, t_{k+1})}_{\text{First-Order Multiplier Update, Hestenes 1969}}$ .
4.  $k \leftarrow k + 1$

**First-Order Multiplier Update, Hestenes 1969**  
Avoids Major Operations

**AugLag Penalty Acts as Parametric Perturbation of Lagrange Multipliers**

## Theorem

- **A1: Augmented Lagrangean - LGE is Strongly Regular at  $w_{t_k}^*$**
- **A2:  $\bar{w}_{t_k}$  Exists in Neighborhood and  $\exists \delta_r \geq 0$  s.t.  $\|\bar{w}_{t_k} - w_{t_k}^*\| \leq L_\psi \|r(\bar{w}_{t_k}, t_k)\| \leq L_\psi \delta_r$**

**For sufficiently small  $\Delta t$  and sufficiently large  $\rho$ ,**

$$\|\bar{w}_{t_k} - w_{t_k}^*\| \leq L_\psi \delta_r \Rightarrow \|\bar{w}_{t_{k+1}} - w_{t_{k+1}}^*\| \leq L_\psi \delta_r$$

- **Conditions More Strict Due to Multiplier Error**
- **Tune  $n_{PGS}$  to Keep QP Solution Error  $O(\Delta t^2)$**

# Augmented Lagrangean

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$$\min_{w \geq \alpha} \quad \frac{1}{2} w^T M w + b^T w$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{For } k = 0, 1, \dots, n_{iter} \\ w_i^{k+1} &= -\frac{1}{M_{ii}} \left( b_i - \sum_{j < i} M_{ij} w_j^{k+1} - \sum_{j > i} M_{ij} w_j^k \right) \\ w_i^{k+1} &= \max(w_i^{k+1}, \alpha_i), \quad i = 1, \dots, n \end{aligned}$$

## Remarks:

### 1. Projected GS is Powerful Paradigm for Linear MPC

- Fixed Matrix, Block Parallelizable (Multi-Thread)

### 2. Even if Dynamic System is SLOW....

- Solve QP at High Frequency (Open-Loop) to Keep Track of Solution Manifold
- Once Control is Needed, the Solution is Very Close, use as Warm-Start

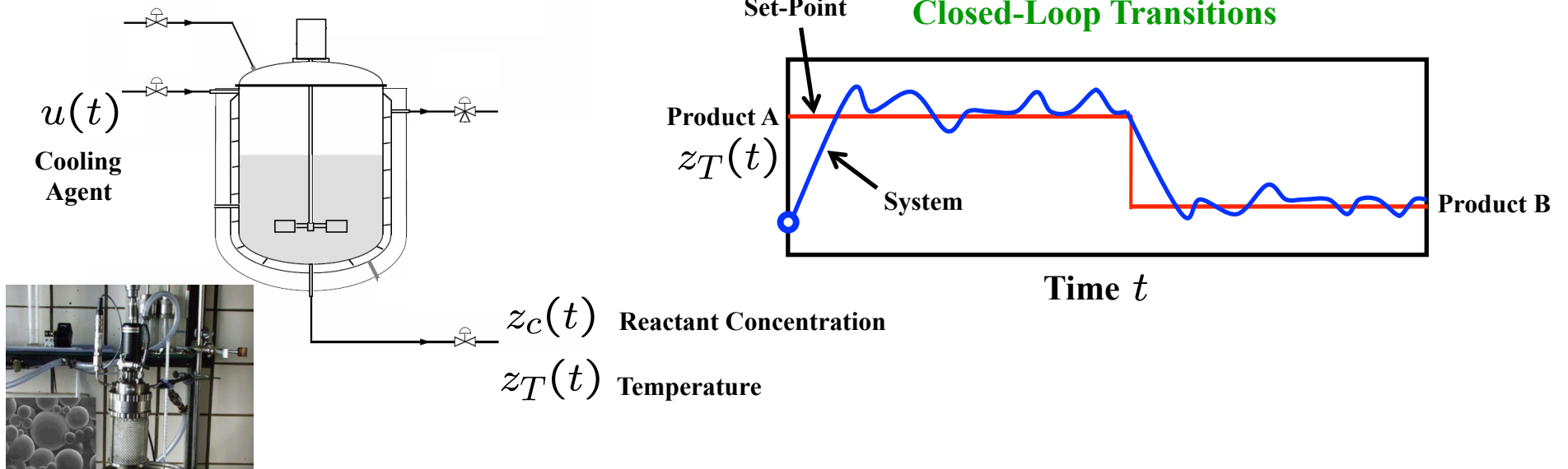


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### **3. Numerical Case Study**

# Numerical Case Study

## Control of Polymerization Reactor



Converted to NLP by Applying Implicit Euler Scheme

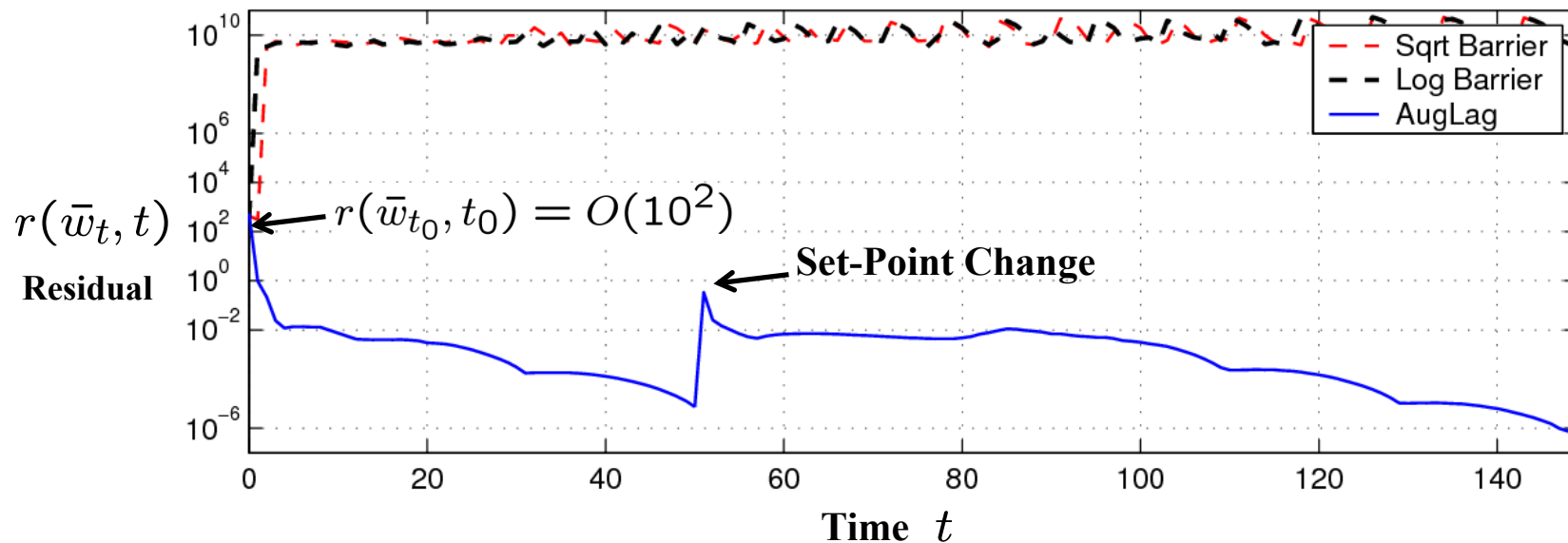
# Numerical Case Study

## Numerical Tests

- **Comparison Against Barrier Smoothing** *Heath, 2004, Ohtsuka, 2004*

1)  $\mu \cdot \log(x - x^{min}) + \mu \cdot \log(x^{max} - x)$     2)  $\mu \cdot \text{sqrt}(x - x^{min}) + \mu \cdot \text{sqrt}(x^{max} - x)$

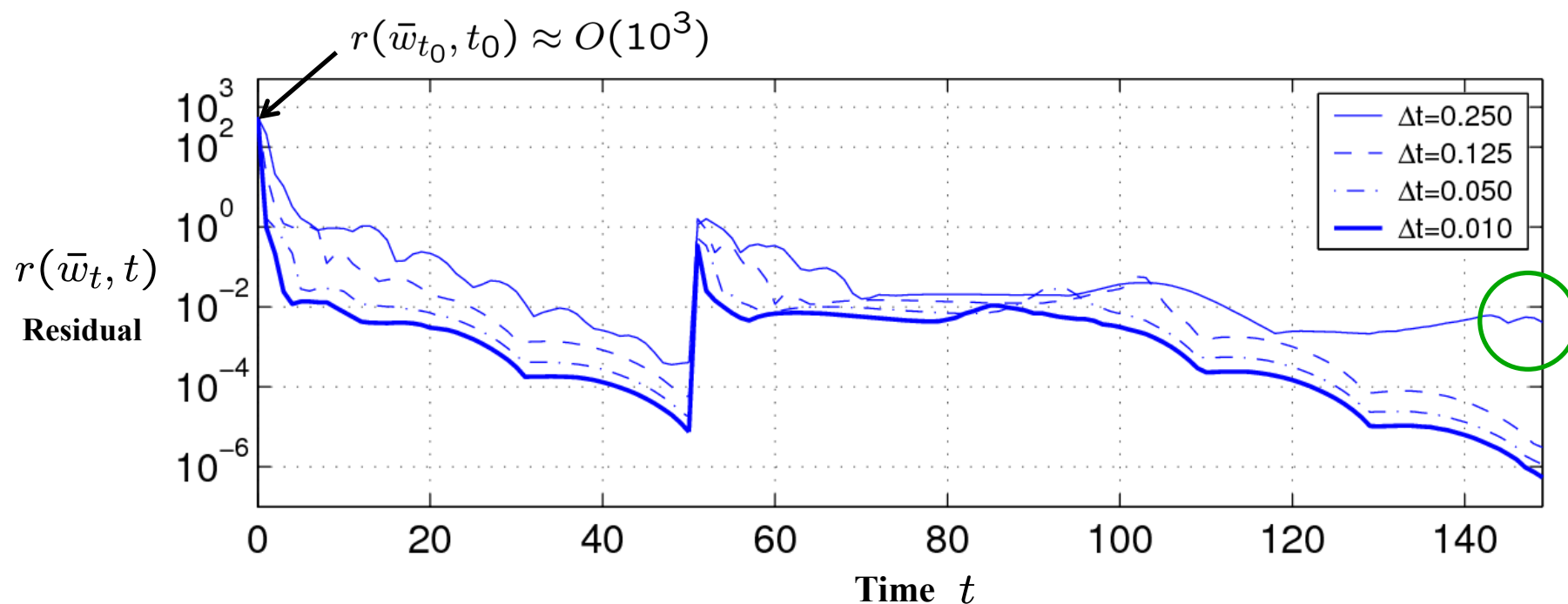
-  $n_{PGS} = 25$ ,  $\Delta t = 0.025$ ,  $\rho = 100$



**Smoothing is Numerically Unstable – Active-Set Changes**  
**Augmented Lagrangean Stands Relatively Large Initial Errors**

# Numerical Case Study

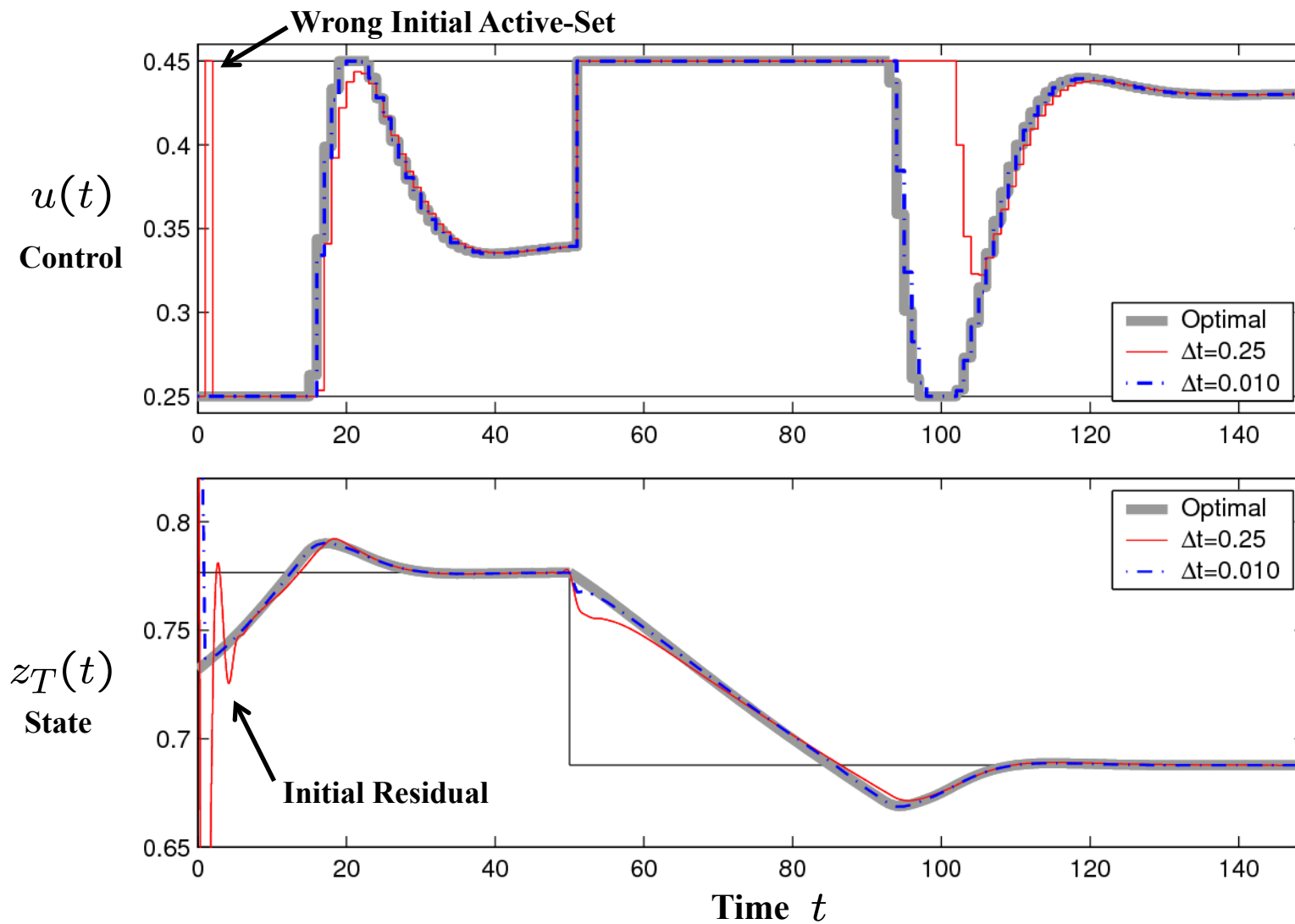
Effect of Time Step  $\Delta t$



Sampling Time Restricted by Time Needed to Perform  $n_{PGS}$  Iterations

# Numerical Case Study

## Optimal vs. Approximate Profiles



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## **4. Conclusions and Future Work**

# Conclusions and Future Work

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## Motivation

- Accurate Search Steps Not Necessarily Best in Time-Critical Environments
- Cheap Strategies to Ensure  $\Delta t \rightarrow 0$  and Still Guarantee Error Stability

## Generalized Equations

- Powerful Framework for Analysis of On-Line NLP Strategies

## Augmented Lagrangean Strategy

- Projected Gauss-Seidel for High-Frequency QP Solutions

## Work Needed

- Convergence
- Time-Adaptive Schemes
- Multi-Thread Implementations, Industrial Examples
- Avoid Augmented Lagrangean -- Projection Methods for General QPs

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# On-Line Nonlinear Programming as a Generalized Equation

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